This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~data structure~~ database system for ~~containing~~ storing data comprising Extensible Markup Language (XML) ~~schema namespaces~~ instances, ~~embodied in at least one computer readable medium,~~ said database system comprising:

a subsystem for generating a container for XML schema namespaces; and

a subsystem for associating at least two XML schema namespace universal resource identifiers (URIs) with said container;

a subsystem for storing an XML instance in a database column; and

~~whereby~~ a subsystem for typing said ~~storage location that is typed~~ database column with said ~~data structure for containing XML schema namespaces~~ container, wherein said database system allows said XML ~~instances~~ instance to be stored in the ~~storage location~~ database column only if said XML instance is validated according to an XML schema namespace identified by one of said at least two XML schema namespace URIs.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~data structure~~ database system of claim 8, ~~wherein said container contains two or more XML schema namespaces, and said container is used in conjunction with~~ further comprising a subsystem that comprises an import function which modifies said container ~~containing two or more XML schema namespaces~~ so that it refers to ~~schema components in other XML schema namespaces~~ at least one schema component in an XML schema namespace other than XML schema namespaces identified by said at least two XML schema namespace URIs.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~data structure~~ database system of claim 8, ~~wherein said container contains two or more XML schema namespaces, and said container is used in conjunction with~~ further comprising a subsystem that comprises an include function which allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~data structure~~ database system of claim 8, ~~wherein said container containing two or more XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with~~ further comprising a subsystem that comprises an alter function which adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container ~~containing two or more XML schema namespaces~~.

13-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of validating Extensible Markup Language (XML) instances to determine whether said XML instances may be stored in a column of a relational database, said method comprising:

creating a container for XML schema namespaces;

associating at least ~~one~~ two XML schema ~~namespace~~ namespaces with said container;

typing a column of a relational database with said container; and

~~in connection with storing an XML instance in said column,~~ ensuring that ~~the~~ an XML instance conforms to at least one schema ~~represented by said container~~ associated with at least one of said at least two XML schema namespaces; and

storing said XML instance in said column only if said XML instance conforms to said least one schema.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, ~~wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with a function which modifies~~ further comprising modifying said container so that the container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, ~~wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with a function which allows assembly of~~ further comprising assembling schema components for a single namespace to be associated with said container from several schema documents.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, ~~wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with a function which adds~~ further

comprising adding schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container for XML schema namespaces.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising locating a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising computer readable modules having computer executable instructions for interfacing with a storage location for storing XML instances in a computing system, the modules comprising:

~~a first set of~~ computer readable instructions for collecting ~~one or more~~ a plurality of XML schema namespaces in a container for XML schema namespaces; and

~~a second set of~~ computer readable instructions for typing said ~~storage location~~ database column with said container;

computer readable instructions for validating that an XML instance conforms to a schema identified by said XML schema namespaces; and

computer readable instructions for storing said XML instance is in said database column if said XML instance is validated.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising ~~a fourth set of~~ computer readable instructions for modifying said container so that said container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising ~~a fourth set of~~ computer readable instructions that allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising ~~a fourth set of~~ computer readable instructions that adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within at least one of said one or more containers for XML schema namespaces.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising ~~a fourth set of~~ computer readable instructions that locate a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

31 – 36. (Canceled)